(b) if so, what steps have been taken. to meet the constantly increasing demand \ from the public to provide more PCOs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRl ARJUN SINGH): (a) No Sir, in fact the policy of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. is to open more and more P. C. Os at these locations in Delhi and Bombay.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of third electronic switching system factory in West Bengal

*360. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1981 give$_n$ in the Rajya Sabha $_0$n the 17th March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether the National Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) have provided the necessary inputs for location of the third electronic switching system factory in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)): (a) and (b) The National Centre for Development of Telematic (C-DOT) is engaged in developing a family of digital electronic switching system. It has so far successfully completed the design and produced proto-type of one twenty-eight port electronic private branch automatic and rural aromatic exchanges.

Fortyeight manufacturing units, both in public and private sectors have entered int$_0$ agreement with C-DOT for production PABXs.

C-DOT expects to complete development and commissioning of proto-type for the niaia switching system by August, 1987.

The decision about the location of the third electronic switching factory will be taken in due course, taking into account the switching equipment requirements and the existing infrastructure and manpower likely to be rendered surplus with Indian Telephone Industries Limiter (I. T. I.) at it$_s$ existing Bangalore and Rae Bareli units, as a result of phasing out of crossbar strowger euipment production.

Urdu translators appointed in the Ministries)

2175. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Urdu translators working in different ministries, Ministry-wise as on 30th September, 1986; and

(b) the number of Urdu translators ap pointed during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection of rare species and nature under Environment Protection Act

2176. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention ha$_s$ been drawn to a news item which appeared in 'The Hindu' dated 26th October, 1986 under the caption Enviorn-ment law has no provision'Otect the nature; and.

(b) whether the recently enacted Enviornment Act, 1986 has nothing to do with the protection of other rare species and nature; if so, what steps Government contemplate to remove apprehension from public mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Th$_e$ definition of environment in section 2 (a) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 includes rare I species and nature and section 3 of the Act empowers the Central Government to take all measures necessary IQ protect the environment.